(vi) Urban Land Ceiling and Regulation Act (ULCRA) to be repealed, which would lead to a step up in construction activity and demand for materials such as cement, steel etc.

The recent measures announced by the Government to stimulate and revive industrial growth include:

(i) Special package announced for revival of growth in exports.

(ii) The Government has allowed buy back of shares and intercorporate loans to boost investment and revive the capital market.

(iii) To give an immediate boost to industrial activity, the busy season credit policy announced by RBI has contemplated no upward revision of interest rates.

(iv) Counter guarantees given by Government to three major fast track power projects, are expected to lead to financial closure and thus create demand for basic and other goods.

(v) Six lane, 7000 km highways at a cost of Rs. 28,000 crores are to be taken up.

(vi) Government has agreed to permit foreign equity in the insurance sector. The opening of the insurance sector would provide long term finance for the infrastructure sector.

(vii) Four Task Forces have been constituted for Steel, Capital Goods, Commercial Vehicles and Cement to recommend policy interventions to address the problems faced by these sectors. The task Forces have submitted their recommendations to the Ministry of Finance. The Government has already notified exemption of seven inputs used in steel manufacturing from the special customs duty. The policy announcements relating to other sectors are expected shortly.

Payment of service charges by Hindustan Paper Corporation

1590. PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV:
SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Service Charges have been paid by Hindustran Paper Corporation to its dealders for sales and to State Governments and Central Government departments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that Cash Discounts, Rebates and other Discounts in crores of rupees is being passed on to the stockists every year by M/s. Hindustan Paper Corporation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL): (a) and (b) Hindustan Paper Corporation (HPC) has not engaged any private agent or dealer for servicing any State/Central Government Department orders w.e.f. 1996-97.

(c) and (d) HPC allows discounts such as cash discount for advance and prompt payment, quantity and specific variety discount, discount on fulfilment of time-bound targets etc. to its accredited stockists to make HPC's product competitive in the market and to meet the challenges from other mills in order to boost up sales.

Approval of Joint Ventures by FIPB

1591. SHRI JIBON ROY:
SHRI CO. POULOSE:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of joint ventures approved by the Foreign Investment Promotion Board during 1995 to 1998;

(b) the total amount of equity participation by the foreign companies in these joint ventures; and

(c) the total amount of equity involved in these joint ventures and the areas in which these ventures have been approved?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) to (c) Sir, during the period 1995 to October, 1998, 4,236 financial collaborations with a total foreign equity of Rs. 134146.61 crore have been approved by Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB). Details regarding the percentage of foreign equity and areas of investment are available in the SIA Newsletter brought out by this Department on monthly basis, which is widely circulated, including the Parliament Library.

Approval of FDIs by FIPB

1592. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of FDIs approved by the Foreign Investment Promotion Board during the last four months, month-wise;

(b) whether any Foreign Investment and Foreign Collaboration proposals had been withdrawn during the period, but for the inordinate delay and postponements by FIPB on various grounds, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any of them belonged to Infrastrsucture sesctor, if so, which ones?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) During the four months of June, 1998 to September, 1998, 394 financia' collaborations with a total foreign equity of Rs. 12016.28 crore have been approved by FIPB.

The details of such proposals *viz.* name and country of foreign collaborator. percentage of equity, item of-manufacture/activity and location of the project are published on a monthly basis in SIA Newsletter which is widely circulated, including the Parliament Library.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Functioning of Hindustan Cables Ltd.

1593 SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether government have taken steps for the proper functioning of the Hindustan Cables units;

(b) whether the Ministry of Communications agreed to take over the hindustan Cables under its control; and

(c) whether any financial assistance has been sanctioned to see that the existing capacity is utilized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHB1R SINGH BADAL): (a) to (c) A package of assistance together with financial restructuring proposing mainly reservation of orders alongwith advance, transfer of Hindustan Cables Limited (HCL) to Department of Telecommunications (DOT) and financial assistance is under consideration of the Government.

Non-Placing of orders with BHEL

1594. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether BHEL has not received many orders for its survival; and

(b) if so, the reasons why the PSUs like Neyveli Lignites are giving orders to foreign multinationals instead of BHEL to save foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL): (a) During